

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 7, 10, and 11 are all the claims pending in the present application, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9 having been canceled as indicated herein. The Examiner maintains the same rejection set forth in the previous Office Action, and adds a few new arguments in the *Response to Arguments* section of the Office Action. The Examiner also rejects claim 11, which was added in the previous Amendment. Specifically, claims 1-3 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Franchitto (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,946).¹ Claims 4-10 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Franchitto.

§102(b) Rejections (Franchitto) - Claims 1-3 and 11

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3 and 11 for the reasons set forth on pages 2-3 of the present Office Action, and adds some new arguments in the *Response to Arguments* section on pages 3-5 of the present Office Action.

Claims 1 and 2 are cancelled as indicated herein.

With respect to independent claim 3, Applicants maintain the previously submitted arguments that Franchitto does not teach or suggest that at least, "said fuel injection valve is provided with a snap spring that is fitted into said fitting hole and extends in the axial direction of said fuel injection valve," as recited in claim 3. The Examiner does not even respond to the arguments set forth in the previous amendment with respect to the above-identified feature of

¹ The Examiner does not specifically identify "claim 11" as a rejected claim in numbered paragraph two (2) in the body of the Office Action, however, the Examiner addresses the specific limitations of claim 11 at the bottom of page 2 and top of page 3 of the Office Action.

claim 3. Therefore, Applicants maintain that independent claim 3 is patentably distinguishable over Franchitto for at least the same reasons as set forth in the previous Response.

With respect to dependent claim 11, Applicants submit that this claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 3. Moreover, the Examiner does not even identify the components/aspects of Franchitto that allegedly correspond to the features of claim 11; the Examiner simply recites the limitations set forth in claim 11. That is, the Examiner does not show and Franchitto does not disclose a component that corresponds to the claimed snap spring which is movable in a radial direction when mounting the fuel injection valve on said fuel distribution pipe. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that dependent claim 11 is patentably distinguishable over Franchitto.

§103(a) Rejections (Franchitto) - Claims 4-10

With respect to claims 4, 7, and 10, Applicants maintain that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Claims 5, 6, 8, and 9 are cancelled as indicated herein.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U. S. Application No. 10/808,292

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q80139

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

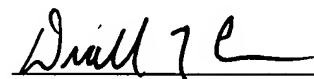
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Date: July 19, 2005